

THE COLUMBUS-ATHENS SCHWEITZER FELLOWS PROGRAM

Purpose: To facilitate service projects to benefit the Columbus and Athens communities, and simultaneously develop emerging professionals who have the skills to address unmet health-related needs throughout their careers.

THE ALBERT
SCHWEITZER
FELLOWSHIP®
*Addressing Health Disparities
by Developing Leaders in Service*

“Start early to instill in your students awareness that they are on this earth to help and serve others; that is as important to pass on to them as knowledge.”

—Albert Schweitzer, PhD, MD

The Link



Introduction

A clear link exists between domestic violence and animal cruelty. Approximately 1 in 4 women and nearly 1 in 7 men in the United States have experienced intimate partner violence. As many as 71% of abused women have pets that were abused or killed and up to 48% of victims have refused to leave an abusive situation because they couldn't take their pet with them.

Introduction

CHOICES serves central Ohio families experiencing domestic violence. Domestic violence can affect anyone regardless of race, social economic status, gender, and sexual orientation. Safe Haven provides temporary housing for pets so victims can seek safety.

Project

- A multi-faceted approach was taken to protect victims of abuse and their pets and raise awareness about the link between domestic violence and animal cruelty.
- Facilitated temporary housing for displaced pets
 - Trained over 150 professionals/students
 - Recruited therapy dog teams to visit CHOICES
 - Visited weekly with my therapy dog
 - Provided veterinary clinics with information about domestic violence and animal abuse agencies
 - Conducted interactive training for staff at a local veterinary hospital

Impact

- Educated approximately 200 professionals and trainees
- Visited with nearly 300 CHOICES residents
- Collaborated with over 6 organizations and colleges, including The Center for Family Safety and Healing and the College of Social Work



The Future

- CHOICES will sustain therapy teams
- OSU College of Veterinary Medicine has increased relevant training
- Safe Haven is closer to partnering with another agency for overnight drop off



Testimonial

“...Even when we have been over-flowing with people, somehow there was always room in the living room for Zephyr and Colleen to plop down on the floor and for kids of all sizes and ages to touch his fur, pet his head and lay theirs on him... many of the kids we shelter need a place to experience that kind of warmth, love, and safety.” -Nina Lewis, CHOICES



Colleen
Shockling Dent
College of
Veterinary
Medicine




THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY